

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 213

DATE: January 26, 2005

Version: As Introduced

Authors: Erickson and others

Subject: Library Accessibility and Improvement Grants

Analyst: Tim Strom, 651-296-1886

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

The 1994 Legislature created a grant program for public library accessibility projects. The grants are funded through state bond proceeds. The 1994 Legislature initially approved \$1 million for the program. Subsequent bonding bills have included \$1 million in 1996, \$1.5 million in 1998, \$1 million in 2000 and \$1 million in 2002, an amount that was initially vetoed by the Governor but then subsequently approved by the 2003 Legislature.

This bill expands the scope of the current library accessibility grant program to include renovations and new library construction.

Section

- 1** **Library Accessibility and Improvement Grant Program.** Expands the public library accessibility grant program to include grants for other types of capital improvements. Allows grant money to be spent on new construction. Raises the maximum grant amount from \$150,000 to \$200,000 for accessibility grants. Creates a new maximum grant of \$1,000,000 for renovating or expanding an existing library building, or to construct a new library building. Continues the requirement that the state grants must not exceed one-half of the actual project costs.
- 2** **Bonds.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the state bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of education for library accessibility and improvement grants. Requests the commissioner of finance to sell and issue state general obligation bonds to fund the capital improvements authorized in section 1.

Section

3 **Effective Date.** Makes section 1 and 2 effective the day following final enactment.